

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 (original). A gland packing material wherein said gland packing material is configured by a cord-like member (40) which is formed by stranding a strip-like base member (4), or winding a strip-like base member (4) about a longitudinal direction, or winding a strip-like base member (4) about a longitudinal direction and then stranding said base member,

said base member (4) comprises: a sheet-like reinforcing member (20) configured by a fibrous material (2); and a strip-like expanded graphite (3),

said reinforcing member (20) is disposed at least on one face of said strip-like expanded graphite (3),

a portion of said reinforcing member (20) is placed outside said cord-like member (40), a remaining portion is involved in said cord-like member (40),

a large number of openings (20A) are formed in said reinforcing member (20), and said strip-like expanded graphite (3) faces said openings (20A).

2 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 1, wherein a whole outside of said cord-like member (40) is covered by said portion of said reinforcing member (20).

3 (currently amended). A gland packing material according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein bent portions (2a) are formed in said fibrous material (2), and said bent portions (2a) are exposed from a surface of said cord-like member (40).

4 (currently amended). A gland packing material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is disposed only on one face of said strip-like expanded graphite (3).

5 (currently amended). A gland packing material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein said reinforcing member (20) is disposed on both faces of said strip-like

expanded graphite (3).

6 (currently amended). A gland packing material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein said fibrous material (2) is formed into a sheet-like shape, and said fibrous material sheet is configured by a fiber-opened sheet (2B) in which multifilament yarns are opened in a sheet-like shape.

7 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 6, wherein a thickness of said fiber-opened sheet (2B) is set to 10 μm to 300 μm .

8 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein said fibrous material (2) is configured by one or two or more selected from the group consisting of carbon fibers and other brittle fibers, and tough fibers.

9 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 8, wherein said brittle fibers are configured by one or two or more selected from the group consisting of glass fibers, silica fibers, and ceramic fibers.

10 (original). A gland packing material according to claim 8, wherein said tough fibers are configured by one or two or more selected from the group consisting of metal fibers, aramid fibers, and PBO fibers.

11 (original). A gland packing wherein a plurality of gland packing materials (1) according to any one of claims 1 to 10 are used, and braided or twisted.